years, 1101, 1102 and 1103, we have spent about 20 thousand rupees.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Not for the boatmen, but for the cultivators.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Boatmen plied in these canals. I do not see the difference.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Another amount claimed to have been spent is Rs. 200 in 1101, Rs. 199 in 1102 and Rs. 194 in 1103, for the P. C. R. Works of the Malippuram Depot, deepening of the water-way.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is almost an annual expenditure.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Government wants the approaches to the Depot to be in such a way that the salt contractor may have all the facilities to take his articles to the Malippuram Depot, and the Government claims that it has been to the public benefit because rates are collected.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Member ought to know it better.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—The Canal Department collects such a large amount. Is any collection made from cars and carriages in rural parts?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No, I do not think.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—That sort of vehicles has exemption. The boats have no exemption, even when the amount spent is so very meagre. I want to draw the attention of the Government to this.

Co-operative Societies.

143. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applications received by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the registration of societies during the last three years ending Mithunam 1104?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—150 till 20th Mithunam 1104.

144. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly place on the Table a statement showing the number of applications rejected, the places from which they had been sent, the names of the proposed societies sought to be registered and the reasons for rejecting those applications?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The information asked for cannot be furnished as the period for which it is wanted is not specified.

Petition complaining against the acquisition of site for the Chittur Girls' School.

145. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

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(1) whether they have received a petition dated 8th Mithunam 1104 from the public of Chittur praying for the reconsideration of the suitability of the site selected for the Girls' School;

(2) whether they have enquired into the reasons given therein ; and

(3) what the conclusion they have come to ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—(1) Yes.

(2) and (3). The matter is being enquired into by the Director of Public Instruction.

Acquisition for the Tiruvilluamala Girls' School.

146. Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) whether the Director of Public Instruction ever visited the plot that is proposed to be acquired for the Girls' School, Tiruvilluamala ;

(2) what action was taken on the complaint made by the owner of the above plot?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—(1) Yes.

(2) The acquisition of the plot originally proposed was dropped and another site selected.

Opening of a canal for irrigation purposes.

147. Mr. K.T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) what orders have been passed on the petition, dated Chingam 5, 1104, from Mr. Nambalat Sankunni Panikkar and the people of Kunnamkulam, Mangad and Porkkulam, submitted to the Chief Engineer regarding the opening of a canal for irrigation ;

(b) whether the above work will be undertaken in the ensuing year ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) and (b). A copy of the order is placed on the Table (*Vide Appendix II.*)

Devadasi system.

148. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform :—

(1) whether the 'Devadasi' system is in existence in any part of the State ;

(2) and if so, whether the Government have received in the last four years any representation praying for its abolition ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In what parts of the State is the system in existence?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—In the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk and the Cranganur Taluk.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many requests were there?

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